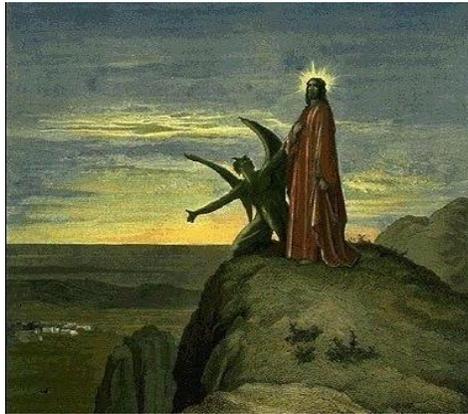


Forty Days: Scott Hahn Reflects on the First Sunday in Lent

Sunday Bible Reflections by Dr. Scott Hahn
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Deuteronomy 26:4-10; Psalm 91:1-2,10-15; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13



In today's epic Gospel scene, Jesus relives in His flesh the history of Israel.

We've already seen that like Israel, Jesus has passed through water, been called God's beloved Son (see [Luke 3:22](#); [Exodus 4:22](#)). Now, as Israel was tested for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus is led into the desert to be tested for forty days and nights

(see [Exodus 15:25](#)).

He faces the temptations put to Israel: Hungry, He's tempted to grumble against God for food (see [Exodus 16:1-13](#)). As Israel quarreled at Massah, He's tempted to doubt God's care (see [Exodus 17:1-6](#)). When the Devil asks His homage, He's tempted to do what Israel did in creating the golden calf (see Exodus 32).

Jesus fights the Devil with the Word of God, three times quoting from Moses' lecture about the lessons Israel was supposed to learn from its wilderness wanderings (see [Deuteronomy 8:3](#); [6:16](#); [6:12-15](#)).

Why do we read this story on the first Sunday of Lent? Because like the biblical sign of forty (see [Genesis 7:12](#); [Exodus 24:18](#); [34:28](#); [1 Kings 19:8](#); [Jonah 3:4](#)), the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification.

Lent is to teach us what we hear over and over in today's readings. "Call upon me, and I will answer," the Lord promises in today's Psalm. Paul promises the same thing in today's Epistle (quoting [Deuteronomy 30:14](#); [Isaiah 28:16](#); [Joel 2:32](#)).

This was Israel's experience, as Moses reminds his people in today's First Reading: "We cried to the Lord...and He heard." But each of us is tempted, as Israel was, to forget the great deeds He works in our lives, to neglect our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

Like the litany of remembrance Moses prescribes for Israel, we should see in the Mass a memorial of our salvation, and "bow down in His presence," offering ourselves in thanksgiving for all He has given us.

ANNOUNCED MASSES
February 13th – 21st, 2016

Sat. Feb. 13th 4:30 p.m.	Weekday Deceased and Living Members of Rodrigues and Guerra family – by Eugene Rodrigues
Sun. Feb. 14th 9:00 a.m.	First Sunday of Lent Clara Leblanc – RIP – by Be My Disciples Catechists
11:00 a.m.	Sandra Barbadoro – RIP – by her parents
Mon. Feb. 15th	NO MASS
Tues. Feb. 16th 7:00 p.m.	Weekday Father Brian Moon – RIP – by Maria E.S. Ponte
Wed. Feb. 17th 9:00 a.m.	Seven Holy Founders of the Service Order Tai, Trong, Naomie – RIP – by Marguerite Kinh
Thurs. Feb. 18th 9:00 a.m.	Weekday Father Brian Moon – RIP – by Ron, Carolyn and Geri
Fri. Feb. 19th 9:00 a.m.	Weekday <i>(Mass Intention available)</i>
Sat. Feb. 20th 4:30 p.m.	Weekday Birthday Thanksgiving by Ela Dimaya
Sun. Feb. 21st 9:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Lent Bruna Alesi – RIP – by her parents
11:00 a.m.	Abilio and Gilbert – RIP – by Mercedes and family

Called Home To The Father

Our deepest sympathies to the families of **Nina Asconi** and **Doreen Greene**. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Collection: February 7, 2016 - **\$2,503.15**

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Why Are There 40 Days to Lent?



In the Old Testament, God punished mankind by sending a flood over the earth for 40 days and nights. The people of Nineveh repented of their sins with 40 days of fasting. The Prophet Ezekiel lay on his right side for 40 days as a precursor to the siege and destruction of Jerusalem. The Prophet Elijah fasted and prayed for 40 days on Mount Horeb. Moses fasted 40 days and nights while on Mount Sinai. Moses and the Israelites

wandered in the desert for 40 penitential years until they entered the Promised Land.

In the New Testament, the Lord fasted for 40 days and nights in preparation for the beginning of His public ministry.

We model our 40 day season of Lent today on this holy tradition, established throughout Salvation History, the story of God's relationship with humanity. Most importantly we observe these 40 days of Lent in imitation of Our Lord - the example for us all.

Very early in the history of the Church, the practices and duration of Lent became more regulated with the Church Fathers encouraging the practice of the 40 day period of fasting prior to the more intense fasting of Holy Week. By the end of the fourth century, it was well established in the Church that Lent's duration was 40 days and that prayer and fasting constituted its primary spiritual exercises.

Unto this very day, we observe 40 days of penitential practices, typically of prayer and fasting because we take Jesus as our model, to prepare ourselves for the Paschal feast, that is, Easter. The Catechism tells us "By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." (Catholic Catechism #540). (*Davis, Mike as cited in www.aquinasandmore.com, Copyright 2016*)

Development and Peace: Share Lent Campaign

On Ash Wednesday, Development and Peace launched its annual Share Lent campaign with its theme for the year "Create a Climate of Change". Money raised through Share Lent provides vital support to the poor in more than 30 countries throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. You can make Share Lent a part of your own Lenten journey by downloading our Lenten Calendar app for free from the App store or Google Play! Learn more about the campaign at devp.org/sharelent. The Share Lent collection will take place on March 13th, Solidarity Sunday. If you wish to help out with the campaign please contact: Betty Machny at 514-748-9294 or at bmachny@bell.net.